

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 049588
ORIGIN IO-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:IO/HDC:EDDIE EDWARDS

APPROVED BY:IO:HDC:ROBERT ANDREW

-----040549 260224Z /64

R 250423Z FEB 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUQMGU/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 0000

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS STATE 049588

FOL GENEVA 2775 SENT ACTION SECSTATE FEB 22, 1978 REPEATED
TO YOU QUOTE

UNCLAS GENEVA 02775

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, UN

SUBJECT: FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION, COMMISSION ON

NARCOTIC DRUGS: ITEM 7 - INCB REPORT

1. THERE WERE TWENTY-THREE INTERVENTIONS ON THIS ITEM,
WITH ALMOST ALL OF THEM SPECIFICALLY PRAISING THE REPORT.
IN HIS INTRODUCTION, PROFESSOR PAUL REUTER HIGHLIGHTED
THE FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) OPIATE PRODUCTION AND
TRAFFIC ARE INCREASING; (B) REGIONAL AND INTER-
REGIONAL COOPERATION IS INCREASING; (C) GENERAL
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED IN NARCOTICS PRODUCING
AREAS; (D) DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAMS SHOULD BE
EXPANDED; (E) DECRIMINALIZATION OF CANNABIS POSSESSION
OFFENSES FOR USERS IS ACCEPTABLE BUT BOARD WISHED TO
SEE EFFECTS OF LESS SEVERE PENALTIES; (F) THERE IS
CONCERN OVER OVER-DOSE DEATHS AND HEROIN AVAILABILITY
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PAGE 02 STATE 049588

IN WESTERN EUROPE; (G) THAI CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM
SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO OTHER VILLAGES; (H) THE
SITUATION IN HONG KONG HAS STABILIZED; (I) BURMESE AND
THAI ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES HAVE HAD A POSITIVE EFFECT;
(J) BURMA AND LAOS SHOULD HAVE BETTER CONTROLS WITH
FUND ASSISTED PROJECTS; (K) CROP SUBSTITUTION PROJECTS
IN PERU AND BOLIVIA WILL TAKE LONG TIME TO BE EFFECTIVE;

(L) MOROCCO HAS SET UP NATIONAL NARCOTICS COMMISSION WHICH SHOULD FOCUS ON CANNABIS TRAFFIC; (M) GOVERNMENTS MUST HAVE GOOD DOMESTIC LEGISLATION CONTROLLING PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES TO CARRY OUT THE 1971 CONVENTION.

2. FALCO STATEMENT PRAISES REPORT AND SUPPORTS BOARD'S POSITION OPPOSING PREEMPTIVE BUYING OF OPIUM, ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE TO NARCOTICS PRODUCING AREAS AND CALLING FOR FURTHER REGIONAL AND INTER-REGIONAL COOPERATION. STATEMENT CALLS FOR BOARD TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE WITH GOVERNMENTS TO HAVE THEM TAKE REMEDIAL MEASURES. SPECIAL EMPHASIS PLACED ON ILLICIT TRAFFICKING AND PRODUCTION IN ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

3. THE FOLLOWING ISSUES WERE ADDRESSED DURING THE DEBATE:

(A) DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD'S REPORT SHOULD IN FUTURE BE PLACED UNDER ITEM 3, THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC. AUSTRIA, CANADA, INDIA, SENEGAL AND UK THOUGHT IT USEFUL TO ARRANGE THE DEBATE IN THIS MANNER SO THAT ILLICIT TRAFFIC EXPERTS WOULD BE AVAILABLE DURING ITS DISCUSSION.

(B) PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES. CANADA CRITICIZED THE REPORT FOR NOT PLACING ENOUGH EMPHASIS ON PSYCHOTROPIC UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 049588

SUBSTANCES. INDIA, NIGERIA AND SPAIN ARE CONCERNED ABOUT DIVERSION FROM LICIT TRADE. INDIA AND UK NOTE INCREASING TREND OF ILLICIT LABORATORIES.

(C) INCREASED RESOURCES FOR THE BOARD. BELGIUM, CANADA, FRG, SENEGAL AND PROFESSOR REUTER SUPPORT THIS.

(D) PREEMPTIVE BUYING OF OPIUM. TURKEY SUPPORTS US AND BOARD OPPOSITION TO IT.

(E) DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. YUGOSLAVIA CALLS FOR GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF DRUG-PRODUCING AREAS.

(F) REGIONAL COOPERATION. AUSTRIA, PAKISTAN AND TURKEY SUPPORT US POSITION FAVORING REGIONAL COOPERATION. TURKEY CALLS FOR FUND SUPPORT TO FOSTER THIS.

(G) SEIZED OPIUM. TURKEY STATES THAT COUNTRIES SELLING SEIZED OPIUM ARE UNDERCUTTING LICIT PRICES AND AFFECTING COMPETITION. THEY ALSO INDIRECTLY ENCOURAGE ILLICIT PRODUCTION. TURKEY CALLS FOR A SPECIAL SECTION ON THIS IN NEXT BOARD REPORT.

(H) CANNABIS. TURKEY AND USSR OBJECT TO EASING RESTRICTIONS ON CANNABIS, CLAIM IT HAS ALREADY LED TO INCREASED TRAFFIC AND ABUSE. BELGIUM AND UK INDICATE THEY ARE CONSIDERING TAKING MODERATE APPROACH BY EASING PENALTIES. STUDY ON THIS WILL SOON APPEAR IN UK WHICH MAY ALSO CALL FOR LESS PUNISHMENT FOR MINOR TRAFFICKING OFFENSES.

(I) HEROIN AND COCAINE IN WESTERN EUROPE. FRG, PAKISTAN, SWEDEN AND USSR NOTE INCREASE IN HEROIN IN WESTERN EUROPE, PARTICULARLY FROM THE MID EAST. SWEDEN CITES RISE IN COCAINE AVAILABILITY.

(J) DEMAND REDUCTION. FRANCE, SWEDEN AND TOGO AGREE WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 STATE 049588

BOARD'S CALL FOR GREATER ATTENTION TO THIS AREA.

(K) ILLICIT TRAFFIC HIGHLIGHTS. IRAN: FEARS THAT IT MAY BECOME A TRANSITING COUNTRY. TURKEY: CONCERNED THAT ITS NATIONALS ARE INVOLVED IN ILLICIT TRAFFICKING AND IS ADDRESSING THIS PROBLEM IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. UK: NOTES DESTRUCTION OF LSD LAB WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR 95 PERCENT OF UK'S SUPPLY AND 50 PERCENT OF WESTERN EUROPE'S SUPPLY. PAKISTAN: ADMITS PROGRESS IN APPLYING CONTROLS TO DRUG PRODUCING AREAS HAS BEEN SLOW DURING LAST FOUR YEARS BUT STATES THAT PRIOR TO THEN THERE WAS NO PROGRESS.

4. US DEL AND OTHERS DEVISED DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH PRAISES BOARD'S REPORT, CALLS FOR CONTINUING GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION WITH THE BOARD, AND URGES GREATER EFFORTS TO ERADICATE ILLICIT OR UNCONTROLLED POPPY CULTIVATION IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN LICIT SUPPLY DEMAND BALANCE BY AVOIDING IMBALANCES CAUSED BY SALE OF SEIZED OPIUM. VOTE ON THIS RESOLUTION WILL COME LATER IN SESSION.

5. COMMENT: CND GENERALLY PLEASED WITH INCB REPORT SINCE IT CONTAINS MORE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION THAN DND DOCUMENTS. ALSO, AS AN APOLITICAL BODY, THE BOARD CAN TAKE A POSITION ON SENSITIVE ISSUES. THE IMPRESSION WAS THAT THE BOARD COULD AND SHOULD DO MORE, ESPECIALLY ON THE DIPLOMATIC FRONT AND IN THE FIELD OF PSYCHOTROPICS. DISCUSSIONS WITH BOARD AND BOARD SECRETARIAT MEMBERS SHOW EAGERNESS TO ASSUME THIS ROLE. VANDEN HEUVEL UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, DRUG TRAFFIC, DRUG CONTROL, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE049588
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/HDC:EDDIE EDWARDS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780088-0697
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780212/aaaaajtd.tel
Line Count: 167
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fde521cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3472592
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION, COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS: ITEM 7 - INCB REPORT
TAGS: SNAR, XX, UN, INCB, COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS
To: ANKARA NEW DELHI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fde521cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014